

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 13784 281214Z
ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 FRB-03 OMB-01
ITC-01 SP-02 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 OPIC-03
STR-07 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 DODE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 JUSE-00 /102 W
-----121277 281220Z /50

O R 281205Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0662
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 13784

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EGEN, EINV, ECOSOC, UN, GW
SUBJECT: 1978 SUMMER ECOSOC - ILLICIT PAYMENTS
INITIATIVE

REFS: A) STATE 188861, B) GENEVA 11453,
C) BONN 13684 (NOTAL)

1. EMBOFF RAISED POINTS IN PARA 4 OF REFTEL WITH
FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS IN EFFORT TO GET FRG SUPPORT
FOR U.S. PROPOSAL TO CONVENE A CONFERENCE IN 1980.
ALTHOUGH THEY FEEL PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, THE
GERMANS THINK A FIRM DATE SHOULD NOT BE SET UNTIL
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THERE IS A CHANCE TO DETERMINE IF THE RECENT PROGRESS
CONTINUES IN THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE. THEY WANT
TO AVOID A SITUATION WHERE THE CONFERENCE IS CONVENED
BEFORE ALL THE MAJOR ISSUES ARE RESOLVED. THEY
FEEL SETTING A FIRM DATE NOW, LEAVES THAT POSSIBILITY
OPEN.

2. OFFICIALS AT BOTH THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND ECONOMICS MINISTRY INFORMALLY SEE THE CONFERENCE TAKING PLACE IN 1980. THEY SEE THE FORMATION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE AS A COMMITMENT TO A CONFERENCE, WHICH WOULD LOGICALLY TAKE PLACE THE FOLLOWING YEAR. HOWEVER, THEY STILL PREFER TO AVOID ANY FORMAL COMMITMENT.

3. EMBOFF POINTED OUT RATIONALE FOR SETTING A FIRM DATE AND THE LEADERSHIP ROLE THAT THE FRG COULD PLAY IN THIS REGARD. FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL SAID HE WOULD REVIEW POINTS MADE WITH FRG GENEVA DELEGATION AND ECONOMICS MINISTRY AND RESPOND EARLY NEXT WEEK CONCERNING THE FRG STANCE.

4. COMMENT: WHILE FRG PREFERENCE CLEARLY IS THAT NO FIRM DATE BE SET AT THIS TIME, THEIR OPPOSITION IS MUCH LESS THAN THEIR PREVIOUS RESISTANCE TO A CONFERENCE IN 1979, AND EFFORTS TO PERSUADE THEM STILL HAVE REALISTIC CHANCES FOR SUCCESS. THE FRG ARGUMENT AGAINST A FIRM DATE WILL NOT LIKELY BE THAT PROGRESS HASN'T BEEN MADE AND THE U.S. HASN'T MADE CONCESSIONS. RATHER, THEY WILL LIKELY ARGUE IT IS PREMATURE TO SET A FIRM DATE NOW BEFORE THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETS AND THAT THERE WOULD BE AN UNDERSTANDING THAT IF THE PREPARATORY MEETINGS

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WENT WELL THE CONFERENCE WOULD BE CONVENED IN 1980.
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